

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 Cancelled

14. (Currently Amended) A catheter comprising:
a shaft comprising proximal and distal ends;
a tip at the distal end of the shaft having a tapered portion over which the tip outer diameter is gradually reduced;
a distal terminus;
an untapered length of shaft positioned adjacent the tapered portion opposite the distal terminus; and
two or more lumens, at least one of which is sized to receive a 0.035 inch guidewire, the lumens spaced apart from one another such that a periphery of one lumen is spaced apart from a periphery of another lumen by a predetermined distance in the untapered length, a corresponding distance between the periphery of said one lumen and the periphery of said another lumen ~~lumens~~ in the tapered portion being different from the predetermined distance in the untapered portion~~[[;]]~~.
- wherein the distal terminus has an outer diameter measuring less than approximately 0.063 inch~~[[;]]~~, and
wherein the tapered portion of the tip has a length of approximately 3 millimeters or less.
15. (Previously Presented) A catheter as defined in claim 14, further comprising a cutting wire extending through at least a portion of one of the lumens and terminating within the tip.
16. (Previously Presented) A catheter as defined in claim 15, wherein the cutting wire exits the lumen along a portion of the shaft and reenters the lumen through a distal skive hole in the untapered length of the shaft;

a length between the distal skive hole and the distal terminus is approximately 5 millimeters or less; and

the tapered portion is positioned between the skive hole and the distal terminus.

17. (Previously Presented) A catheter as defined in claim 15, further comprising a radiopaque marker within the tip.

18. (Previously Presented) A catheter as defined in claim 17, wherein the radiopaque marker is contained in the lumen occupied by the cutting wire.

19. (Original) A catheter as defined in claim 14 wherein the shaft comprises three lumens.

Claims 20-21 Cancelled

22. (Previously Presented) A catheter as defined in claim 14 wherein at least two lumens extend to and open to the distal terminus of the catheter.

23. (Previously Presented) A catheter as defined in claim 14 wherein the distal terminus has an outer diameter in the range of approximately .055 inch to .063 inch.

24. (Previously Presented) A catheter as defined in claim 14 wherein the distal terminus has an outer diameter of approximately .059 inch or less.

25. Cancelled

26. (Currently Amended) A catheter comprising:
a shaft comprising proximal and distal ends;
a tip at the distal end of the shaft having a tapered portion over which the tip outer diameter is gradually reduced;
a distal terminus;
an untapered length of shaft adjacent the tapered portion opposite the distal terminus; and

two or more lumens, at least one of which is sized to receive a 0.035 inch guidewire, the lumens being spaced apart from one another such that a periphery of one lumen is spaced apart from a periphery of another lumen by a predetermined distance in the untapered length, a corresponding distance between the periphery of said one lumen and the periphery of said another lumen ~~lumens~~ in the tapered portion being different from the predetermined distance[[:]],

wherein the distal terminus has an outer diameter within the range of 0.055 inch to 0.063 inch[[:]], and

wherein the tapered portion of the tip has a length within the range of 1.5 mm to 4.5 mm.

27. (Previously Presented) A catheter according to claim 26, wherein the outer diameter of the distal terminus is approximately 0.059 inch.

28. (Previously Presented) A catheter according to claim 26, wherein the length of the tapered portion of the tip is approximately 3 mm.

29. (Previously Presented) A catheter as defined in claim 15, wherein the cutting wire exits the lumen along a portion of the shaft and reenters the lumen through a distal skive hole in the untapered length of the shaft;

a length between the distal skive hole and the distal terminus is within the range of 4.5 to 6 mm; and

the tapered portion is positioned between the skive hole and the distal terminus.

30. (Previously Presented) A catheter as defined in claim 26, wherein the shaft comprises three lumens.

31. (Previously Presented) A catheter as defined in claim 26, wherein at least two lumens extend to and open to the distal terminus of the catheter.

32. (Previously Presented) A catheter as defined in claim 14, wherein the distance between the lumens in the tapered portion is less than the predetermined distance.

33. (Previously Presented) A catheter as defined in claim 26, wherein the distance between the lumens in the tapered portion is less than the predetermined distance.